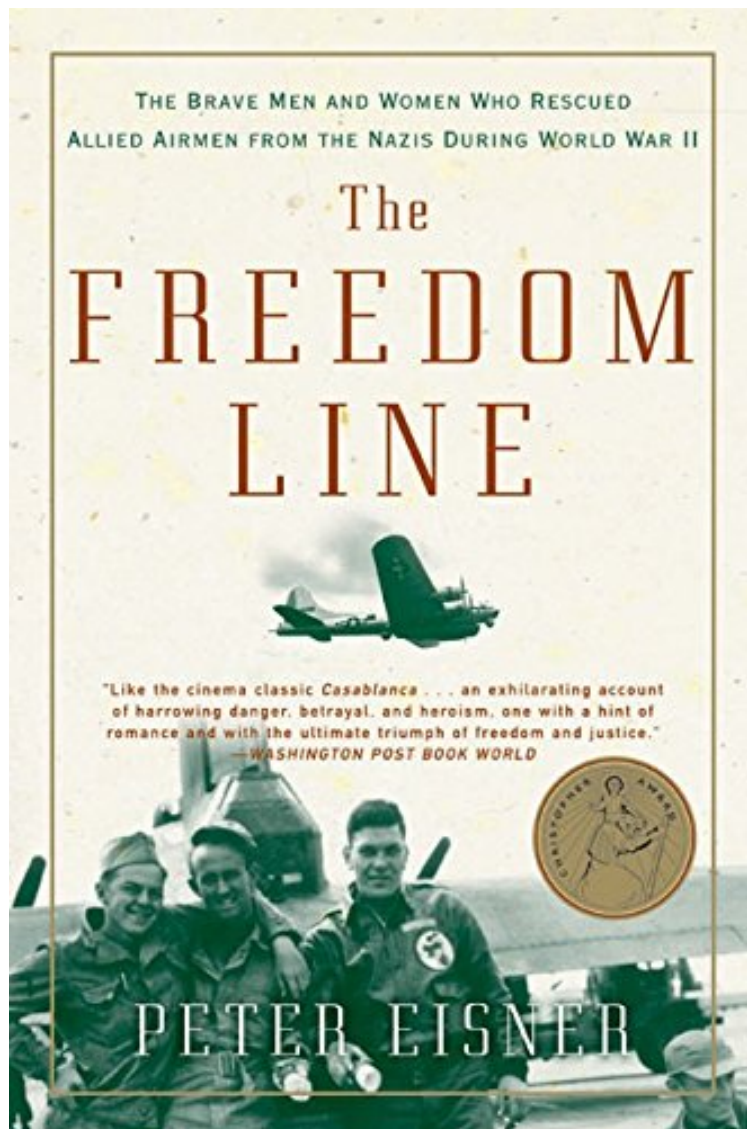


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The Freedom Line: The Brave Men and Women Who Rescued Allied Airmen from the Nazis During World War II

Peter Eisner

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Peter Eisner : The Freedom Line: The Brave Men and Women Who Rescued Allied Airmen from the Nazis During World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Freedom Line: The Brave Men and Women Who Rescued Allied Airmen from the Nazis During World War II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. WW2 Comet Line Rescue of Allied Pilots in Belgium and France By startup_eng1 This is an excellent piece of history. Readers that have enjoyed "The Forgotten 500" by Gregory A. Freeman and "Beneath a Scarlet Sky" by Mark Sullivan will enjoy this book. I believe that this book is better than both of those books as it combines the best elements of both: the detail provided in the Forgotten 500 and the storyline and pace of "Under a Scarlett Sky". Note that the author intended to write this book as a historical piece and not as a novel. He explains how he learned of the Comet Line and became entranced in its story. The book's bibliography looks to be extensive with several references being in my own collection. The story starts in 1942 as the Allies begin to step up their bombing missions against Axis targets. Needless to say more bombing runs meant more Allied aircrews ending up on the ground in Europe. A young Belgium woman had the vision about returning the downed aviators back to England where they could continue fight the Nazis. This became the start of the Comet Line (Freedom Line in title). The author interviewed a number of the Comet Line key players. He explains the method he used to capture dialog in telling the history. He is clear that he did not embellish the story. His wife is from the Basque region of Spain which was the southern terminus of the Comet Line. His wife's family and connections assisted the author with the connections necessary to develop the material for this piece of history. The author did a great job transposing a number of interviews, articles and just plain facts into a fully integrated history piece that reads like a novel. The story was balanced as it explained not only the views of the Comet Line personnel and Allied air personnel, but included views from the Axis side; in particular a Belgium traitor who was dedicated to shutting down the Comet Line and capturing its key personnel and the Allied aircrews. This book was very hard to put down and I highly recommend it to anyone who has an interest in WW2 history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent account of the beyond-brave young men and women of ... By Richard E. Lord An excellent account of the beyond-brave young men and women of the Comet Line, who helped downed fliers escape from the Nazis during WW II. I had heard their story from my friend Ron Pearce, whose RAF plane was shot down over Belgium in 1942 on the return from a bombing run over Dusseldorf. This book fleshes out his story, and fills in a lot of the details of the terrifying chances the young heroes took to bring him, and hundreds of others, back to freedom. An amazing story, and all of it true! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. World War II Story By Kindle Customer An interesting book, this is supposed to be a nonfiction rendering of the Comet Line, a group of Belgians who help anded Allied airmen to escape the Nazis. It is written in the style of era novel and two timing mistakes made me suspicious but otherwise it seems accurate.

Compared to Casablanca by the Washington Post, this a page-turning story of a group of resistance workers who secreted downed Allied fighter pilots through France and into safety in Spain during World War II. As war raged against Hitler's Germany, an increasing number of Allied fliers were shot down on missions against Nazi targets in occupied Europe. Many fliers parachuted safely behind enemy lines only to find themselves stranded and hunted down by the Gestapo. The Freedom Line traces the thrilling and true story of Robert Grimes, a 20-year-old American B-17 pilot whose plane was shot down over Belgium on Oct. 20, 1943. Wounded, disoriented, and scared, he was rescued by operatives of the Comet Line, a group of tenacious young women and men from Belgium, France, and Spain who joined forces to rescue the Allied aircrews and take them to safety. And on Christmas Eve 1943, he and a group of fellow Americans faced unexpected sudden danger and tragedy on the border between France and Spain. The road to safety was a treacherous journey by train, by bicycle, and on foot that stretched hundreds of miles across occupied France to the Pyrenees Mountains at the Spanish border. Armed with guile and spirit, the selfless civilian fighters of the Comet Line had risked their lives to create this underground railroad, and by this time in the war, they had saved hundreds of Americans, British, Australians, and other Allied airmen. Based on interviews with the survivors and in-depth archival research, The Freedom Line is the story of a group of friends who chose to act on their own out of a deep respect for liberty and human dignity. Theirs was a courage that presumed to take on a fearfully powerful foe with few defences.

From Publishers Weekly Chronicling a group of young resistance fighters from Spain, France and Belgium, Washington Post deputy foreign editor Eisner brings to life "the Comet Line" they formed to lead Allied troops caught in the Basque region of Spain to safety. Eisner, whose wife is Basque, has spent a great deal of time in the area, and that familiarity permeates this taut account of trust and bravery among civilians and military men. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Escape from the Nazis, a well-worked theme in film and fiction, has a new tale to surrender from real history. Washington Post editor Eisner found an intrepid and heroic one about a Belgian escape-and-evasion organization called the Comet Line. Many of its operatives were caught, but a few escaped; now in their eighties, they shared their reminiscences with Eisner, who dramatizes them in a present-tense account. The Comet Line rescued Allied pilots shot down over Belgium and smuggled them across France to Spain. An American B-17 pilot whom Eisner interviewed, Robert Grimes, supplies the example of how the Comet Line clandestinely spirited its charges past the Gestapo to the Pyrenees. After recounting the work's ensuing dramatic climax, Grimes' crossing of the mountains guided by local Basques, in which a fellow airman and a Comet Line operative died, Eisner ends his history with the exposure of, and justice meted to, a

nefarious initiate of the Comet Line who was a Gestapo double agent. An inspiring World War II story filled with courage and steely nerves. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Peter Eisner has been an editor and reporter at the Washington Post, Newsday, and the Associated Press. His books include the award-winning *The Freedom Line* and *The Italian Letter*, which he wrote with Knut Royce. He lives in Bethesda, Maryland.